



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia Department of Community Health Grants \$295,000 to Vidalia's Meadows Regional Medical Center Network

ATLANTA – Dr. Rhonda Medows, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health, announced a \$295,000 grant to Vidalia's Meadows Regional Medical Center to create a health care network. The DCH State Office of Rural Health administers the funding for this program.

"Meadows Regional Medical Center's planned approach is well thought out and is anticipated to yield measurable results," said Dr. Medows. "It addresses several of the key issues involved in rural Georgia and outlines workable solutions. This network will offer more access to quality health care in this area."

The new rural health network will serve Toombs, Tattnall, Telfair and Jeff Davis counties by reducing health care barriers and providing education to help citizens make better health care decisions.

The first issue the network will tackle is diabetes. With an average diabetic population of the four counties at 10.8 percent, significantly higher than the state average of 6.8 percent, diabetes is a major health problem in this area.

Meadows Regional Medical Center's plan includes screening the population in each county that is at risk or already has diabetes. Next, the network members will offer ongoing diabetes educational programs to help citizens decrease their risks of the disease. Young children will be an emphasized group with interventions/screenings for obesity.

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Meadows Regional Medical Center is the lead in creating a system linking health care providers in the four counties. Other providers that are currently in the network include:

- Family Connection
- Southeast Health Unit Nutrition Services
- Chapman Health Care Services
- Williams Medical Clinic
- Optometry Associates
- Allcare Pharmacy
- Southeast Georgia Communities Project
- Stanley Medical Clinic
- Trane Manufacturing
- Vidalia Medical Associates
- Kids First Medical Center
- Vidalia Pediatric Clinic
- Southeast Health District
- Wiggins Health Associates
- Vidalia OB-GYN
- Neely Family Practice
- Vidalia City School System
- Toombs County School System
- Toombs County Health Department
- Ideal Pharmacy
- Dr. John Talton

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About Georgia Department of Community Health

The Department of Community Health champions:

- 1) access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
- 2) responsible health planning & use of healthcare resources and,
- 3) healthy behaviors & improved health outcomes.

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